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February 22, 2007

To The Connecticut General Assembly

Donate Life Connecticut is a Connecticut based non-profit organization with a twenty year history of public service in the state. Our membership includes representatives from Yale New Haven Hospital Department of Transplantation, New England Organ Bank, LifeChoice Donor Services, The National Kidney Foundation, The ESRD Network of New England, American Liver Foundation, Connecticut Eye Bank & Visual Research Foundation, Hartford Hospital Transplant Program, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, individuals who have received transplants, and donor families. Donate Life Connecticut is closely affiliated with the national organization Donate Life America. The mission of Donate Life Connecticut is to increase the number of human organs and tissue available for transplantation through public education.

We write today in vigorous support of Proposed Bill No. 190, LCO No. 955 pending before the Connecticut General Assembly: An Act Concerning Income Tax Deduction For Expenses Associated With Organ Donation.

The passage of this proposed bill into law would have a direct impact on public welfare by removing one of the largest barriers for potential organ and tissue donors – financial burden. If people were able to reduce the related healthcare cost associated with transplant medical procedures and follow-up, many more organ and tissue donations would result. Saving lives and greatly improving the quality of life for Connecticut's citizens is the noblest of deeds, public or private. If ratified, your legislative action on this measure will be nothing short of heroic.

We await the outcome of your vote, as many families throughout the state wait for the day they get The Call to receive a transplant. Please consider this letter as our hearty endorsement of PB No. 190, LCO No. 955.

Sincerely,

Wesley J. Johnson Sr.

Wesley of Johnson Se.

Chair DLC and Transplant Recipient